

Some Strepsiptera from Pretoria.

by

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(Submitted through D. P. Annecke, Pretoria).

Thanks to the courtesy of Mr. D. P. Annecke (Parasite Laboratory, Division of Entomology, Pretoria) we have had the opportunity of examining 7 ♂ specimens of Strepsiptera taken at Pretoria. Of the three species represented, two appear to be new: one of the genera, hitherto known only from the holarctic regions, is now recorded from Africa for the first time.

Fam. ELENCHIDAE Perkins.

Elenchus falcipennis Luna de Carvalho.

(Ed. Luna de Carvalho 1956. *Publ. cult. da Comp. de Diam. de Angola* 1956, pp. 11-54.)

1 ♂, Pretoria, 17 April 1957 (D. P. Annecke, AcPL 1056).

This species has been described from a single specimen, taken at Dundo (Angola). Host unknown; other *Elenchus* spp. are parasites of Rhynchota.

Fam. STYLOPIDAE Kirby.

Halictoxenos annekei n. sp.

♂ Head and thorax black. Legs and underside of thorax brownish. Abdomen brown with a dark streak on the dorsal middle line.

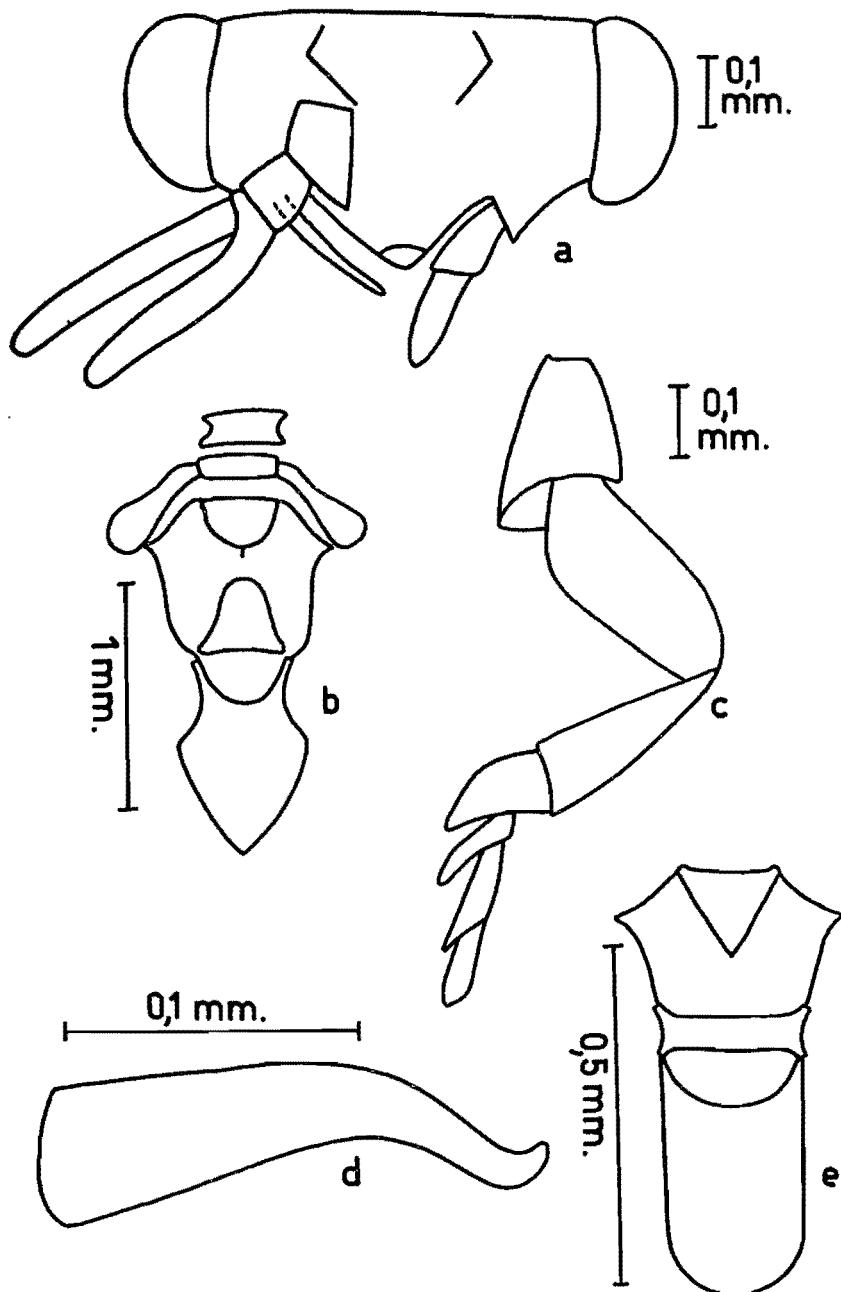
Head (Fig. 1, a). Antennae with first segment a little broader and longer than the second which is as long as broad; third segment with lateral flabellum almost as long as the fourth segment (Fig. 1, a). Maxillae long and acicular (same Fig.). Palpi with the first segment as long as the second (same Fig.).

Thorax (Fig. 1, b). Praescutum semicircular. Scutum almost undivided, with very prominent corners. Scutellum oval-shaped in front. Postlumbium

EXPLANATIONS OF FIGURES.

Fig. 1. a to d: *Halictoxenos annekei* n.sp. ♂; a: head seen in front, antennae and maxillae only drawn on the right side, palpi only on the left; b: thorax from above; c: hind legs; d: penis.

e: *Halictophagus calcaratus* n.sp. ♂; thorax.
(Camera lucida drawings).



semicircular. Postscutellum not longer than the scutum, broadening at its middle, pointed backwards.

Hind legs (Fig. 1, c) with very broad trochanters and femora; tibiae triangular, a little shorter than the femora.

Abdomen short and broad, not longer than the postscutellum, as broad as the thorax at its base. *Penis* (Fig. 1, d), only slightly curved, very broad at the base, very blunt at the apex.

Length: 2,5 mm.

1 ♂ Holotype, Pretoria, 5 February 1957 (D. P. Annecke, AcPL 1026). Holotype, in National Collection of Insects, Division of Entomology, Pretoria.

This genus was only known from Europe and North America. The *Halictoxenos* species whose biology is known, are all parasites, of *Halictus* bees. The males of this genus have been rarely collected and are known only by very few specimens.

Fam. HALICTOPHAGIDAE Perkins.

***Halictophagus calcaratus* n. sp.**

♂ Head and thorax black. Antennae, legs and abdomen brownish.

Head (Fig. 2, a) Maxillae broad (Fig. 2, c); palpi with second segment 4 times as long as the first (Fig. 2, b). Antennae, see Fig. 2, d.

Mesothorax (Fig. 1, e) Praescutum triangular; scutum undivided, broader than long, with acute corners. Scutellum transverse, 4 times as broad as long. Postlumbium short and broad. Postscutellum a little longer than scutum and scutellum together, regularly oval-shaped behind.

Hind legs (Fig. 2, e) very slender, tibiae longer than femora.

Abdomen narrow (not broader than the postscutellum), cylindrical, as long as head and thorax together. Genital parts seen from the side (Fig. 2, f); penis with enlarged base, acutely pointed posteriorly.

Length: 1,5 mm.

5 ♂♂ Type and paratypes, all collected by D. P. Annecke at Pretoria.

Holotype 1: 27-i-1957 (AcPL 733)

Paratypes 1: 6-i-1957 (AcPL 733)

3: 6/7-iv-1957, 28-iv-1957 and 27-v-1957 (AcPL 1057).

Type and paratypes in National Collection of Insects, Division of Entomology, Pretoria; one paratype at the Musée royal du Congo Belge (Tervuren, Belgium).

This is the second species recorded from Africa. The other species, *Halictophagus cladoceras* Jeannel, has been described from East Africa. The hosts of African species are unknown. Despite the generic name, the species of this genus are parasites of Cicadic Homoptera.

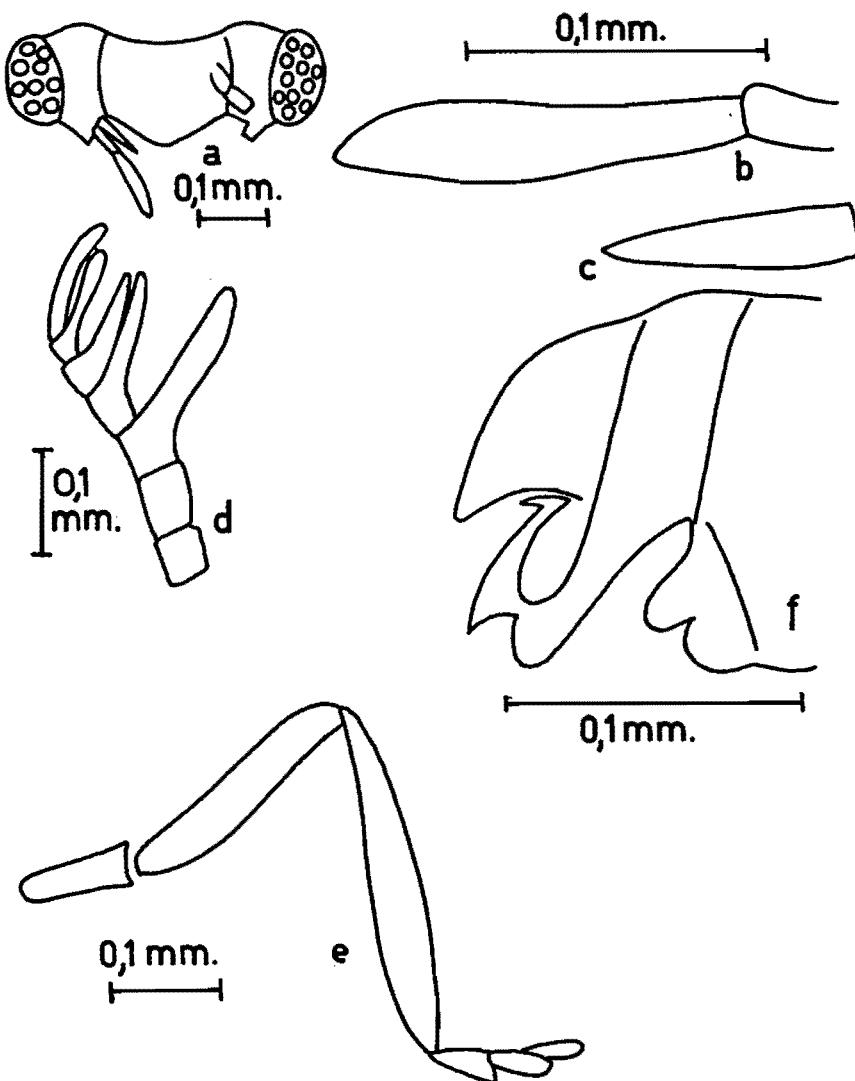


Fig. 2. a to f: *Halictophagus calcaratus* n.sp. ♂: a: head in front, antennae are not figured, except for the base on the left side, maxillae and palpi are only figured on the right side; b: palpi; c: maxillae; d: antennae; e: hind legs; f: hind part of abdomen, seen in profile.
(*Camera lucida* drawings).